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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------016727 301045Z /12
O 301026Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3242
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 20047

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PROV, EG, US
SUBJECT: SADAT'S REQUEST CONCERNING ARRIVAL AND
- DEPARTURE DATES

REF: (A) STATE 219129, (B) STATE 219845, (C) STATE 219911,
- (D) CAIRO 20006

1. SUMMARY: VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK IS CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL REVERT TO ORIGINAL PLAN TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 5. HE WILL EITHER DELAY HIS DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT OR SPEND AN EXTRA DAY IN PARIS. HASSAN KAMEL IS TO CONFIRM THIS TO ME. END SUMMARY.

2. HAVE DISCUSSED POINTS IN REFS A AND C WITH BOTH VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK AND PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR HASSAN KAMEL SEPARATELY. I EXPLAINED TO BOTH THE DIFFICULTIES A SEPTEMBER 4 ARRIVAL AT CAMP DAVID WOULD CAUSE FOR US, INCLUDING CURRENT PLANS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. I SAID WHILE WE WISHED TO ACCOMMODATE PRESIDENT SADAT'S DESIRES, IT WOULD FRANKLY BE AWKWARD FOR US TO CHANGE PLANS AT THIS LATE DATE. I ALSO NOTED THAT WE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR GHORBAL ON THIS SUBJECT.

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3. VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT GHORBAL HAD CALLED HASSAN KAMEL AND MUBARAK UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS AN EARLIER ARRIVAL WOULD CAUSE FOR US. HE SAID HE WOULD TALK TO THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY (BEFORE HIS OWN IMMINENT DEPARTURE AT 1130 TODAY FOR SAUDI ARABIA), AND WOULD ASK HASSAN KAMEL TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME

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ON THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS. MUBARAK SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PRESIDENT WOULD FOLLOW OUR WISHES AND ADHERE TO THE ORIGINAL ARRIVAL TIME IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 5. SADAT WOULD EITHER REVERT TO HIS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE, LEAVING FOR PARIS ON SEPTEMBER 4 TO OVERNIGHT THERE, OR HE WOULD LEAVE SEPTEMBER 3 AND SPEND EXTRA DAY IN PARIS. (PRESS TODAY CARRIES REUTERS ITEM FROM PARIS SOURCED TO FRENCH PRESIDENCY SPOKESMAN STATING THAT SADAT WILL MEET WITH GISCARD ON MONDAY MORNING AND LEAVE FOR THE U.S. THAT AFTERNOON. PRESS ITEM NOTES THAT THIS IS CHANGE FROM EARLIER PLANS.) I WENT OVER SAME GROUND WITH HASSAN KAMEL AND HE SAID HE WOULD CALL ME AS SOON AS HE HAD DEFINITIVE WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT. NEITHER MUBARAK NOR KAMEL RAISED POSSIBILITY OF SADAT'S STAYING IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK UNTIL HE GOES UP TO CAMP DAVID.

4. I ALSO INFORMED MUBARAK THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM SHOULD SADAT DECIDE TO STAY ON IN WASHINGTON FOR TWO DAYS AFTER THE CAMP DAVID TALKS. MUBARAK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE WOULD SO INFORM THE PRESIDENT.

5. I RAISED WITH BOTH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS PRESS REPORT THAT SADAT PLANNED TO MAKE STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL AT ANDREWS (PARA 1 C, REF C). I SAID PRESIDENT CARTER STRONGLY PREFERRED THAT BOTH SADAT AND BEGIN REFRAIN

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FROM SUBSTANTIVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT CONDITION WHAT GOES ON AT CAMP DAVID, AND THAT HE THEREFORE HOPED SADAT WOULD NOT MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT ANDREWS. MUBARAK SAID HE WAS SURE SADAT WOULD ADHERE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S WISHES. KAMEL ASSERTED THAT YESTERDAY'S PRESS STORY WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION AND SADAT NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF MAKING SUBSTANTIVE ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

6. I REITERATED TO HASSAN KAMEL OUR DESIRE TO RESTRICT SHUTTLE MOVEMENTS TO AND FROM CAMP DAVID TO NONSUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT STAFF WHO NEED TO BE ROTATED. KAMEL RESPONDED THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD OUR DESIRES AND HIS ADVANCE TEAM HAD INSTRUCTIONS ACCORDINGLY. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT SAID SO, I IMAGINE KAMEL'S PROBLEM IS THAT OFFICIALS CITED IN PARA 3 REF D ARE TOO SENIOR TO BE LODGED IN BOQ BUT HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE NEED TO REMAIN OVERNIGHT AT CAMP DAVID. RATHER THAN DISPLACE MORE JUNIOR SUBSTANTIVE PERSONNEL FROM THE CABINS AVAILABLE TO GOE, I ASSUME HE FELT IT WAS PREFERABLE TO LODGE THEM OUTSIDE. END COMMENT.

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7. KAMEL WAS ALREADY AWARE OF WEATHER FACTORS IN PARA 3 REF C AND SAID HE HAD CIRCULATED APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO ALL ATTENDEES.

8. SINCE BOTH MUBARAK AND KAMEL WERE ANXIOUS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH SADAT, I DID NOT HAVE TIME TO RAISE WITH EITHER OF THEM THE POINT IN PARA 1 B REF C THAT IT MIGHT BE BEST TO REVERSE THE ORDER OF ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCIPALS AT CAMP DAVID. I WILL DO SO WITH KAMEL WHEN HE CALLS BACK WITH DEFINITIVE WORD ON PRESIDENT'S

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PLANS, BUT I IMAGINE HE HAS ALREADY HEARD ABOUT THIS FROM GHORBAL.

9. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SADAT WILL ARRIVE AT ANDREWS ON SEPTEMBER 5 AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, AND WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY AS SOON AS HASSAN KAMEL CONFIRMS THIS. MATTHEWS

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